

Abstract

A supply chain management system (1) has a server (2) and a tracking database (3) linked to multiple remote transaction sites (10, 15, 16, 17, 18). A manufacturing facility (10) manufactures a product (12) and the system (1) assigns a unique reference to it. This reference includes a component identifying the location (10) of production. Each subsequent operation involving the product along the supply chain generates transaction data and the system (1) records a transaction record for it. If the product is modified such as by splitting the pallet, the original reference is terminated and no more transaction records can be generated for it. The modified product is assigned a fresh reference and a series of tracking records is generated as it moves along the supply chain.